

Oakland Health Department Holds Open House.—Early in August the city government of Oakland held an open house in order that the residents of that city might have an opportunity to learn how municipal governmental functions are carried on. A total of twenty-five thousand persons came to the City Hall on that day and eight thousand of them visited the health department, where they learned in detail how the public health is safeguarded through communicable disease control, milk and food inspection, and all the various attributes of the modern municipal health department.

There is considerable merit in this idea, and many other cities might well follow the Oakland plan in order that their residents may have better opportunities to learn the type of activities that are maintained for the purpose of safeguarding the public health.

Highway Eating Places Inspected.—The following inspections were made of highway eating places and service stations along highways of California:

Santa Cruz County. Inspected, 31—Satisfactory, 11; minor defects, 14; insanitary conditions, 3.

Reinspected, 32—Improvements made, 27; insanitary conditions, 5.

Gas service stations inspected, 7—Satisfactory conditions, 5; insanitary conditions, 2.

Auburn Road, Alta to Roseville. Inspected, 40—Satisfactory, 10; minor defects, 16; insanitary conditions, 13.

Reinspected 3, where improvements had been made. Gas service stations inspected, 9—Conditions satisfactory, 5; minor defects, 4.

Redding-Alturas Road. Inspected, 29—Satisfactory conditions, 5; minor defects, 9; insanitary conditions, 15.

Bishop and June Lake Highway. Inspected, 7—Satisfactory conditions, 4; minor defects, 2; insanitary conditions, 1.

The total number of food supply houses along highways inspected and reinspected during August was 139. In nearly all cases where unsatisfactory conditions had previously been found, improvements had been made before reinspection.

Oiling Mosquito-Breeding Marshes by Airplane.—(A report on an experimental demonstration conducted by the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District.) A demonstration of oiling by airplane was made on Thursday, June 23, 1932, on the Plummer marsh, south of Newark. The plane was a specially equipped biplane furnished by Independent Crop Dusting, Inc., which they had developed for the application of liquid sprays for crop pests. . . .

With these mechanical difficulties removed, the method of airplane application of oil for destruction of mosquito larvae and pupae appears to have usefulness under the following conditions:

1. In oiling areas in early spring, when the dirt roads on and leading to the marshes are so soft that transportation of oil is impossible or very difficult.

2. In oiling large areas at other times of the year which have become flooded at extreme high tides, and where time is not available to cover such large areas on foot.

Under these conditions, airplane oiling can be made to compare with hand oiling in both cost and effectiveness.

The limitations of the method are as follows,

1. It is not economical or effective where there are small, isolated breeding places in a marsh, with large areas of nonbreeding ground between.

2. Under the weather conditions which usually prevail on the bay marshes, only a few hours in the early morning can be utilized for flying.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

Reports relate that on June 6, 1932, Charles M. Stewart, M. D., pleaded guilty in the United States District Court of Los Angeles on a charge of violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act, and on May 26 was sent to the psychopathic ward of the Los Angeles General Hospital, where he was declared sane.

"Accused of employing his nine-year-old son to transport narcotics for him, Dr. Simon Zachariah, fifty-five, for thirty years a physician here, was arrested yesterday by state narcotic agents. . . . At the same time the agents arrested John C. Hildreth, fifty-three, a druggist of 2998 Mission Street, and charged him with conspiring with the physician to violate the State Poison Law . . ." (San Francisco *Examiner*, May 5, 1932).

"Dr. Charles M. Stewart of 609 South Grand Avenue, today was facing trial on a federal grand jury indictment returned yesterday, charging him with violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act. Chris Hansen, chief of the local narcotic bureau, who arrested Doctor Stewart several weeks ago, asserted he seized a small quantity of 'dope,' a pistol and several hundred pounds of ammunition. Hansen claimed the doctor distributed narcotics to addicts . . ." (Los Angeles *Herald and Express*, May 12, 1932).

Investigation reports relate that Anna Hofer in the Justice Court of Dinuba, Tulare County, on July 15, 1932, pleaded guilty on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was given a ninety-day suspended jail sentence on condition of no further violation of the Medical Practice Act.

"Robert Cavenagh, member of a 'confidence gang,' which swindled Charles Zeh of Antelope out of \$9,989 by the sale of a 'radium belt,' pleaded guilty yesterday after a jury had been selected to try him before Judge Martin I. Welsh and threw himself upon the mercy of the court. Judge Welsh will receive the probation report on August 16. The change of plea came before the state could begin the introduction of evidence. Attorney T. A. Farrell, in asking probation for Cavenagh, told the court that Cavenagh only acted as chauffeur for two other members of the 'confidence ring' and that more than \$5,000 of the money was paid before Cavenagh was engaged. The 'radium belt' was to cure the eyesight of Johanna Zeh, Zeh's sister. The other members of the ring are still at large." (Previous entry, *Eyesight Swindlers, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, February and May, 1926; May, 1927; April and May, 1929; January, March, April, May, October, and December, 1931; January, April, May, and June, 1932.)

"Robert Cavenagh must serve two years in the county jail for the part he played in swindling Charles Zeh, Antelope rancher, out of \$9,989, which Zeh paid for 'treatment' of the eyes of his sister, Mrs. Johanna Zeh. Superior Judge Martin I. Welsh placed Cavenagh on probation today for five years, staying a sentence in San Quentin Prison, but imposing the jail sentence. Cavenagh also promised the court that he would testify for the state if his companions in the swindle were captured. Eddie Connors and Matthew Wilkinson are being sought by the police. Cavenagh, Connors, and Wilkinson are alleged to have been members of the ring which is alleged to have made a practice of swindling aged persons by giving 'medical treatments'" (Sacramento *Bee*, September 15, 1932). Cavenagh is said to be one of the "gang" of eyesight

swindlers that have been under investigation by the Board of Medical Examiners for several years.

"Dr. Frank L. Burleigh was found guilty by Judge Clifford Thompson this morning of practicing medicine without a license. . . . Many character witnesses were introduced, all of whom testified . . . that they knew Burleigh was at liberty under parole on a manslaughter charge" (*Burbank Review*, August 6, 1932).

Doctor Burleigh's license was revoked February 26, 1929. (Previous entries, September, 1926; December, 1928; February, 1929.)

"Following an investigation of an alleged fake cancer cure, the county grand jury last night voted to indict Dr. Pedar Sather Bruguire, physician, artist and scion of one of California's most noted families, and James Morgan Clement, his asserted associate in operation of a 'cancer hospital.' Both are charged with conspiracy to violate the State Medical Practice Act . . ." (*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 23, 1932).

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* of August 22, 1932, H. J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics, Washington, D. C., recently stated in San Francisco, that "Although California is on a frontier in a battle that is constantly being waged to suppress importation of the dreaded contraband (narcotics), the enforcement situation here is more effective than in any other State. . . . The assistance accorded by the State Medical Board was described by Commissioner Anslinger as exceptional compared to that elsewhere in the country. . . ."

"Dr. Robert H. MacLauchlan, San Francisco surgeon, was given probation today by Federal Judge William B. Sheppard on his plea of guilty to forging narcotic prescriptions. Probation was given on condition that Doctor MacLauchlan would return at once to Canada, where he said his father is a prominent Alberta surgeon, and take treatment for narcotic addiction, according to the Associated Press" (*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, September 2, 1932). Doctor MacLauchlan's license was revoked July 14, 1932. Previous entries, December, 1930; July, 1931.)

Reports relate that J. C. Cowle, unlicensed chiropractor, who assertedly advertises professional courses given in his "National University of Kiroprathic Physicians and Surgeons," was recently found guilty of violation of the Medical Practice Act in Los Angeles and on August 31 was sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 or serve thirty days in the city jail. He was committed to jail. (Previous entries, July and September, 1929; October, 1931; May, 1932.)

G. Edwards was on August 20, 1932, reported as having pleaded guilty in Justice Court, Venice, to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 or serve two hundred days in the county jail, the jail sentence being suspended and defendant placed on probation for six months.

A. E. Hunt is reported to have been recently found guilty in the Justice Court of Riverside of a violation of the Medical Practice Act and sentenced to pay a fine of \$50, sentence being suspended on condition that he no further violate the Medical Practice Act.

"Seized in an investigation by the State Board of Medical Examiners, an unusual device, said to have been used in diagnostic work, aroused much interest yesterday in the State Building. The device was made out of what appeared to be a small ironing board, two rubber heels, a radio tube, and a vacuum cup. A number of hot dishpans, on the sides of which were drawn representations of parts of the human body, apparently were used in conjunction with this apparatus. As a result of the investigation, warrants were issued . . . charging Mrs. L. H. Young of 723 West

Thirty-first Street and Barry Johnson of 317 Carroll Park, Long Beach, with practicing medicine without a license" (*Los Angeles Times*, September 7, 1932). Our investigator reported that "Mrs. Young tests her patients by having each patient put all five fingers of one hand on a number of glass pegs in this device. The vibration from the patient is supposed to enter the operator and cause an attached pendulum to rotate. If it rotates in one way, it means 'yes'; if it rotates the other way, it means 'no.'" Barry Johnson, one of the students, is said to have examined a fifteen-year-old girl, telling her, after said examination, that "she had a black kidney, inflamed tubes in her throat, a leaking heart valve, hardening of the arteries, and that her blood was not quite right." To cure these various afflictions he allegedly sold her \$9.50 worth of tablets, telling her that she must take fifty tablets a day and report back in two weeks, that he might give her "some medicine for her blood."

"V. M. Krause and his assistant, Mrs. Hinton Butler, were arrested last night and released on charges of violating the State Medical Act. The arrest took place during a lecture by Krause in which he is charged with saying that he could create cell life and heal cell deficiencies by means of chemical salts" (*Glendale News Press*, October 6, 1932).

"For the second time within a week, Dr. Nathan S. Houseman, close friend and personal physician of Frank J. Egan, yesterday was arrested for alleged violation of the State Narcotic Act. Doctor Houseman surrendered and was booked at the city prison on a warrant sworn to before Municipal Judge Lazarus by State Agent F. J. A. O'Ferrall. Houseman was immediately released under \$250 bail. The specific complaint against the doctor was his alleged failure to report the disposition of eighty tablets of morphine purchased March 9, last . . ." (*San Francisco Examiner*, October 14, 1932).

"A suit to revoke the corporate franchise of the San Francisco College of Chiropractors and Drugless Surgeons was filed in Superior Court yesterday by the State of California. The action followed complaint made to Attorney-General Webb that the college defendant had exceeded its legal rights in teaching subjects incompatible with the laws covering chiropractic practice" (*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 12, 1932).

Despite previous warning given in these columns, the *San Diego Union* of October 3, 1932, relates that "San Diego medical men are being victimized by a man who is visiting physicians under pretense of representing 133 small insurance companies who have no appointed medical examiners in San Diego. The man says that for \$3.99—three cents a company—the local physician will have his name listed in a directory from which the insurance companies can choose physicians to serve as insurance examiners. . . . The medical association has learned that the company which the man represents does not exist . . ." (*San Diego Union*, October 3, 1932).

"A Los Angeles County deputy sheriff today took into custody Robert Birch on a five-year-old warrant charging him with murder as the result of the death of Violet Lemessieur after an allegedly illegal operation, June 27, 1927. Birch has lived in Georgetown for the last two years" (*Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 1932). According to the records of the Board of Medical Examiners, Robert Birch has been in difficulties before, and holds no license entitling him to practice in this State.

"Arrested by William A. Byrne, special agent of the State Medical Board, Roberto Sanchez, 419½ North Main Street, yesterday was sentenced to jail for 180 days and to pay a \$500 fine for violating the Medical Practice Act. It was alleged he sold 'love powders' and luck charms at the Main Street address" (*Los Angeles Examiner*, October 1, 1932).